

# BLETSOE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

## SUMMARY OF NEIGHBOURHOOD QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

### CONNECTION WITH THE PARISH

31 (97%) live in the parish, the other is a landowner; 3 also work in the village, 4 are landowners and 2 have a business.

### ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

24 (75%) strongly agree that unspoilt countryside is important, 4 agree, 1 neutral.

3 strongly agree facilities for leisure and sport is important, 3 agree, 15 (47%) neutral, 3 disagree, 1 strongly disagreed.

20 (63%) strongly agree that the community and its spirit is important, 9 agree.

21 (66%) strongly agree that pleasant physical environment is important, 4 agree and 1 is neutral.

27 (84%) strongly agree that peaceful and safe neighbourhood is important, 2 neutral.

3 strongly agree that local services are important, 7 agree, 13 (41%) neutral, 1 disagree.

4 strongly agree that lots of things going on is important, 8 agree, 12 (38%) neutral, 2 disagree.

4 strongly agree that good public transport is important, 7 agree, 9 (28%) neutral, 3 disagree and 3 strongly disagree;

5 strongly agree that right housing is available, 9 (28%) agree, 7 neutral, 1 disagree and 3 strongly disagree.

3 strongly agreed that local employment opportunities is important, 3 agree, 8 (25%) neutral, 3 disagree, 6 strongly disagree.

13 (41%) strongly agree that having a say in decisions that affect the parish is important, 12 agree, 3 neutral, 1 disagree.

30 (94%) have broadband, 2 do not. 23 (77%) say it is not fast enough, 7 say it is fast enough. Average speed from 16 respondents is: 2.69 mbps.

### HOUSING

13 think affordable housing is needed, 17 (53%) do not.

20 (63%) think any small sensitively located sites should be available for sale on the open market, 8 do not.

7 think priority should be given to no more than 2 new dwellings, 7 for no more than 5, 10 (31%) for no more than 10 dwellings and 5 for more than 10 dwellings.

The majority wanted semi detached housing - 15 gave a 1 to 4 rating (47%).

Best location site is 30 (land on The Avenue at entrance to Bletsoe off A6) with 10 votes (31%), followed by 31 (land behind the Old Rectory) with 9 votes and 37 (land on the A6) also with 9 votes.

The majority of 10 votes (31%) was for new properties NOT to be built within the conservation area, including near the church and on memorial /orchard green spaces.

## COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The majority of 25 (78%) votes was against any small scale commercial developments.

## TRAFFIC ISSUES

Apart from the use of the village hall car park, there was no real suggestions or consensus as regards how to improve village parking;

Regarding speed calming; the response was for 20mph signs - 4 votes, speed humps - 5 votes and electronic speed signs with 6 votes (19%).

## OTHER ISSUES

Regarding young people facilities; better playground equipment and improved bus service to other villages was mentioned.

Regarding allowance for allotment land; 16 (50%) people were in favour, 8 were not.

Finally, regarding cycle ways; 11 were in favour, 14 (44%) were not.

## NOTES

- 1) There were 32 returned questionnaires, representing a 30% return rate.
- 2) It is relevant that ratings or responses were not made by everybody to all of the questions in the survey.
- 3) A full analysis of all responses is available at [www.Bletsoe.net](http://www.Bletsoe.net)

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

**Of 30% respondents to the questionnaire, the majority responded as follows:**

### **CONNECTION WITH THE PARISH:**

- **97% live in the parish.**

### **ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE:**

- **75% strongly agree that unspoilt countryside is important;**
- **47% are neutral as regards leisure and sport being important;**
- **63% strongly agree that the community and its spirit is important;**
- **66% strongly agree that a pleasant physical environment is important;**
- **84% strongly agree that a peaceful and safe neighbourhood is important;**
- **41% are neutral as regards the importance of local services;**
- **38% are neutral as regards the importance of lots of things going on;**
- **28% are neutral as regards the importance of good public transport;**

- 25% are neutral as regards the importance of local employment opportunities;
- 41% strongly agree that having a say in decisions that affect the parish is important;
- 94% have broadband and 77% say it is not fast enough, with an average speed across 16 respondents of 2.69 mbps.

#### **HOUSING:**

- 53% are against affordable housing needs
- 63% think small sensitively located sites should be available for sale on open market
- 31% want no more than 10 new dwellings
- 47% want new dwellings to be semi detached houses
- 31% think that the best site for new housing should be site number 30 (land on The Avenue at entrance to Bletsoe off A6).

#### **COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT:**

- 78% are against any small scale commercial developments.

#### **TRAFFIC ISSUES:**

- There are no constructive solutions to improved parking in the village, apart from utilising the village hall car park;
- 19% think electronic speed signs are needed to improve speed calming.

#### **OTHER ISSUES:**

- Better playground equipment and improved bus service between local villages are mentioned
- 50% are in favour of providing allotment land
- 44% are not in favour of providing cycle ways.